



The European Union
for Georgia
ENPARD: Support to Agriculture
and Rural Development



Summary of the working visit

Project: "Strengthening Rural Development Models in Georgia"

ELARD representatives: Kristiina Tammets, coordinating expert/vice-president;

Kadri Tillemann project coordinator

Duration: 21.-22. February 2018

Agenda of the visit

21st February, 2018
Meeting with Country Director and Project Director (brief overview of the trip, expectations and future activities)
Meeting with MC Regional Programme Director Najia Hyder
Meeting with LAG members from at least two municipalities
22nd February, 2018
Meeting with MC Finance and Compliance Director (Financial reporting and other financial issues)
Meeting with Project Director and Project Managers (LDS review, GALAG establishment)
Wrap up meeting

Summary of the visit

1) Operational issues with MC

GALAG will be formed out of three LAGs established during ENPARD 1 project + five new ones established during the current ENPARD 2 by other implementing agencies. GALAG establishment can be arranged once all eight are ready to nominate their representatives to GALAG (2 each). So far, only two LAG's have been registered as NGO-s, but for GALAG establishment all LAGs will be registered. This is not a very complicated procedure according to Georgian legislation.

WP 1, LDS review – LAG's have worked with ELARD's report and find it useful. Majority of the recommendations are accepted and will be implemented. Some of them were estimated to be too early to include at this state (financial planning), but will be taken into consideration during later reviews. First sub-grant calls and LDS-review are running in parallel. Borjomi have done their review and already collected more than 200 expressions of interest from the first stage of sub-grant call. Kazbegi has announced the call. It is expected that in mid-March all the three LAGs have finished their LDS review. **Then all of them will be sent to ELARD (corrections in track-changes format, comments) to final check.**



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WP 2, GALAG analysis. At this stage it is important that the LAGs will nominate dedicated and capable representatives into GALAG. **For that, ELARD will prepare one-pager about expectations and roles of the representatives.** MC/LAGs agreed with the perspective structure of the report. They emphasized the need to involve a wide range of country examples into the report to choose most suitable combination of operational modes to Georgian context. Important topics to be covered: communication, networking, policy dialogue and fundraising. MC is planning to hire GALAG-coordinator, he/she is expected to start in May.

GALAG visits to LINC – Finnish LINC in June is too early to be attended for all the GALAG-represented LAGS. **MC will consider if and who should attend LINC this year and notify ELARD as soon as possible for further arrangements.** Study tour to Portugal (instead of Brussels) can be considered for autumn 2018, attendance in Estonian LINC in 2019 as well.

GALAG training – **ELARD will prepare a proposal, what kind of trainings and when (considering the availability of the experts) to be held this year.** MC will communicate with LAGs and based on the feedback trainings will be confirmed/arranged. **In addition to the trainings, one policy support seminar is to be proposed for wider range of ENPARD-related stakeholders, to promote/introduce CLLD (using the EESC explanatory opinion by Roman Haken).** The proposal will be discussed by MC by other LAGs/partners.

UNDP activities (baseline study in LAG's, GRDN) and their exact content and purpose is still rather unclear. There will be an ENPARD stakeholder meeting in March, hopefully some further information can be collected from them.

2) Meetings with the LAG-representatives and managers

Expectations towards the GALAG-trainings – fundraising possibilities to ensure sustainability, examples and models for co-operation, co-operation/relationship with local authorities, practical training about project selection (skills for applicant's hearings), range of services that can be provided by LAG-s (Irish example). Trainings on thematic topic could also considered – tourism support for example.

LAG's introduced their current activities and supported projects, a database of supported projects is created in Lagodekhi LAG:

<http://lagodekhillag.ge/en/projects>



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